

PARISH NEWSLETTER

July/ August 2026

**for the villages of Aldwark, Alne, Flawith,
Tholthorpe, Tollerton and Youlton**

The Anglican minister for the villages in the Parish of Alne is Revd. Lucy Brencher. Revd. Lucy can be contacted by telephone on 07940 514492 or by e-mail at revlucybrencher@gmail.com.



A prayer for Iran

As Iran dominates the news, there's another story quietly unfolding behind the headlines – that is, the extraordinary growth of the Iranian Christian church.

After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, it was widely predicted that Iran's tiny Christian population would die out in the waves of persecution that followed. Today it's illegal to own a Bible in the national language of Farsi or to share the Christian faith with others.

Christian leaders have been tortured and imprisoned and a number have been murdered or executed. The latest conflict has intensified the oppression of Christians as they're seen as sympathising with "the West" and therefore hostile to the regime.

Living under constant surveillance and the threat of arrest, Christians are forced to meet secretly in house churches. When these are raided, church members face severe penalties along with pressure to inform on others. When and if believers are released, it often comes with conditions such as signing statements denying their faith.

And yet, for the past decade, the church in Iran has been one of the fastest growing in the world with some estimates pointing to a million or more converts to Christianity over the period.¹ The church in neighbouring Afghanistan has also been growing rapidly as the Gospel has spread across the border.

Sustaining the Iranian church are various organisations broadcasting Christian content in the Farsi language outside the reach of government censors. But most of all, it's the courage, conviction and resilience of ordinary Iranian Christians that's winning others to the faith and helping to fuel the church's extraordinary growth.

Things may get worse in Iran as a wounded regime cracks down even harder on those it regards as its enemies. Which makes it all the more important to pray.

The following prayer for Iran was written by the Rt. Rev Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford, herself an Iranian who was forced to flee the country as a teenager and has never been able to return. Please join her in praying for that brave, suffering land.

¹ Source: International Christian Concern (persecution.org)

*Ever-loving God,
who hears us in our anguish and distress and longs for us to be free,
we pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East at this time of fear
and uncertainty.*

*Be near to those who are anxious; bring comfort to all who are suffering.
Guide those with the power to make decisions and lead them in the ways of
wisdom, compassion and moderation: that people of goodwill would seek
harmony and reconciliation.*

*Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places in praying for
peace with justice, through him who is the Prince of Peace,*

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Graham Jones
Licensed Lay Minister, Alne Parish

News from Alne Church

Street Fayre

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us and contributed to the success of the Plant Stall and Church cafe at the Street Fayre this year. The combination of the Plant Stall on Church Wind and the café inside the church raised £1,672.73 this year - over £500 more than 2025. This incredible effort is thanks to Denise, Sharon, Carole, Jayne, Laura and Sue on the plants and Jenny, Jessica, Pat, Liz, Lucy and Jean inside ... all worked so hard both on the day and in the weeks beforehand. Thanks also to all who donated plants, trays and pots to the stall plus cakes to the cafe - we couldn't do it without you. A particular thank you to Guy for his help transporting all the plants to Church Wind.

The money raised will go towards the upkeep of our lovely church ... still an important centre of our village over 900 years on. St Mary's hosted the joyous celebration of Nathan and Hannah's wedding in June ... and is available for other community-based activities; please let us know if you would like to base a celebration/event in our village church (ajnstmarys@gmail.com).

In addition to being open daily for quiet reflection, St Mary's will host the two regular services in July:

Sunday 12th - communion at 10.30a.m. and

Sunday 26th - a reflective Celtic service at 3.00p.m.

You will be most welcome.

It is also a cool place to visit as (if!) our summer starts to warm ...

New Family Afternoon Service coming in September!

In September St Mary's will be experimenting with a monthly Afternoon Service for families and children.

Our team is excited about this new service for primary aged children and their parents.

There will be refreshments as we gather, an interactive story, outdoor and indoor related activities, with time to think about God.

Do look out for more information via the school email and St Mary's Noticeboard.

Rev Lucy

Alne Singers Summer Concert



Alne Village Hall
Thursday 9th July at 7.30pm

Village Hall Bar
Raffle

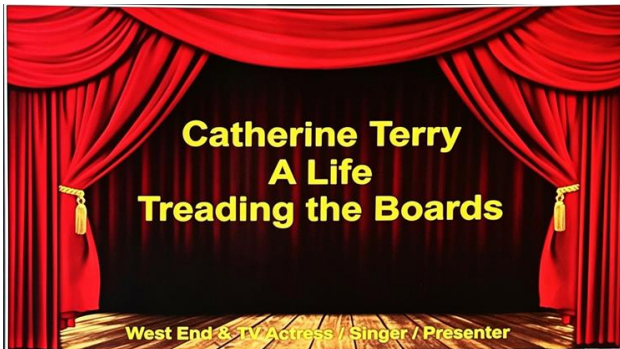
Free entry with retiring collection for
Safe and Secure Homes

May Monthly Meeting

Sadly we missed submitting our report for May but it was yet another fantastic monthly meeting as we had the wonderful and irrepressible Catherine Terry, a star of screen and stage. Catherine was such fun and told us all about her life

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

treading the boards with her long and very successful career, working with so many of the greatest stars we all know.



She made her debut in Hello Dolly, went on to 42nd Street at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane,

starred in Me and my Girl, Gypsy, Oklahoma, Little Shop of Horrors, Scrooge, Blithe Spirit Follies, Budgie with Adam Faith as well as Cats and many many more marvellous stage shows. She joined the New Shakespeare Company with leading roles in Connecticut Yankee and The Taming of the Shrew and as well as broadcasting for the BBC, her TV credits include Casualty, The Bill, Doctors, Brush Strokes and others, too numerous to mention.

It was a truly fun packed evening and we look forward to welcoming her back again to tell us more.....



June - 100 years of Alne WI

June arrived and Alne WI celebrated its 100 year anniversary. In true WI style we held a huge, fabulous WI Centenary party. 42 members attended



and everyone joined in the spirit of the occasion with gorgeous 1920's costume, lots of fizz, a quiz and ending with a crazy, but really fun dancing session led by Treasurer Jane and her husband Richard Neville. Richard became an honorary member for the latter part of the evening, so he could play the music for us on the accordion and at the

start of the proceedings we had a visit from Ian McCrae who took photos of the occasion for us. It was certainly a one off, very special evening for us all and one we will all remember for a long, long time.

The photos show just a few of the ladies in their wonderful dresses and the delicious cake made by our very own Helen Taylor.

July Meeting – 8th July, starting at 7.30p.m. - Alne Village Hall

We will be having a truly fascinating talk about the Stamford Bridge Tapestry. Having been to where the tapestries are on display in Stamford Bridge, we can vouch this will be a very interesting talk indeed. If you would like to hear this or know more about our brilliant WI, then come along as a guest to see why we all enjoy our membership of this amazing organisation. Guest entry £4, includes refreshments.



We have enjoyed some really good trips out this month already. We had an arranged tour and afternoon tea at the beautiful Hovingham Hall. Our garden group visited Helmsley Walled Garden and again it was a wonderful day out in the company of wonderful friends. The gardening group regularly visits public and member's gardens and only this week 2 of our members welcomed other members for a visit to their beautiful gardens.

Next week we are off for our Summer Dinner, which is always a great evening and the walking group also arranges really interesting walks, usually ending with a lunch or afternoon tea, so we have a lot more going on than just our monthly meetings. Come along and see and we will make you feel very welcome.

Aldwark Area Parish Council: refurbishment of play area in Aldwark

Thanks to the Friends of Aldwark group and to North Yorkshire Council for their contributions towards the Parish Council's recent refurbishment and replacement of some of the play equipment.





Alne Heating Oil Co-operative

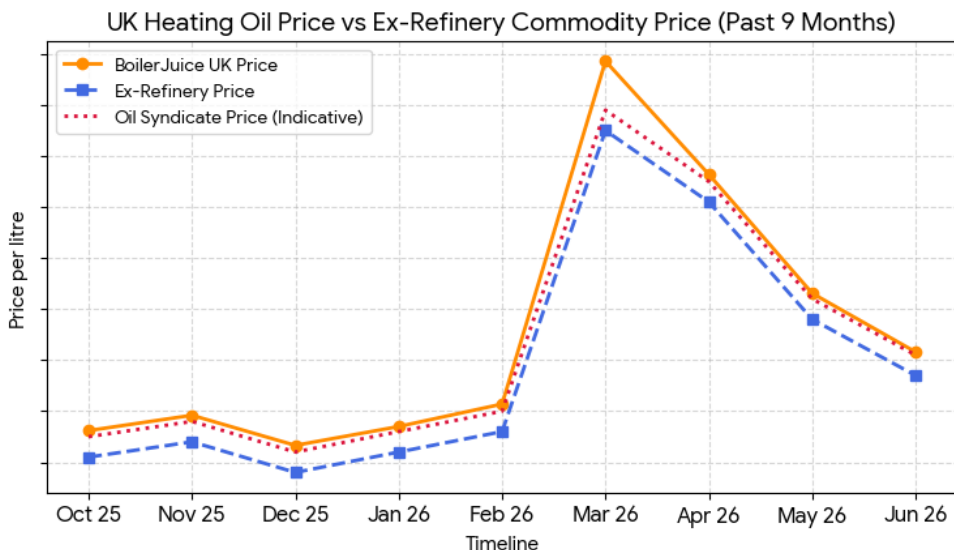
With events in the Middle East affecting the global oil price, the cost of oil rose very sharply during March. Prices are now showing a downward trend, returning to somewhere near levels seen prior to the conflict.

Oil is priced in US dollars on the global market, so the price we pay is affected by the UK£ to US\$ exchange rate, as well as the base price of the commodity.

When prices are fluctuant, retail suppliers build in a contingency to protect themselves against a possible price rise between the date of order and the date of delivery.

The Lower Swale Heating Oil Syndicate operates using a different pricing model, inasmuch as members pay the ex-refinery price at the point of delivery plus an agreed uplift to cover the supplier's costs and profit. This ensures that the price members pay is only affected by the commodity price, there is no need for the supplier to add an additional amount as a contingency.

The top, unbroken line in the chart below shows the average lowest retail UK price of heating oil over the past nine months (source: BoilerJuice). The lower, dashed line is the ex-refinery price, with the dotted line showing the price enjoyed by members of the Syndicate (indicative).



In a stable world, the Syndicate usually undercuts the BoilerJuice price by a few pence per litre. (The BoilerJuice price is the lowest UK average for a delivery of 1,000 litres and does not reflect local prices, which may be higher.) However, when prices are changing rapidly, saving is much greater. We have an example of a local resident who bought 500 litres of oil from her regular supplier at twice the price she would have paid had she been a member of the Syndicate.

Alne Heating Oil Co-operative is a founder member of the Lower Swale Syndicate. The LSOS consists of nine volunteer-run co-operatives. Collectively we have nearly 1,000 members living in some thirty settlements local to Easingwold, who order in excess of 1.5 million litres of oil annually.

If you have any comments or questions, please share them on Facebook or, if you prefer, e-mail alne@swaleoil.org.uk



SUMMER TENNIS

27th July-28th August - With Adam Scaife - LTA Accredited+ Coach



MONDAYS TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS



@ Aine

27/7 3/8 10/8 17/8

TOTS

9am-10.30 - 3-5yrs

6-10 yrs

10.30am-12.30 - Red Ball

8-14 yrs

1.30-4.30 - Green/Orange

28/7 4/8 11/8 18/8 25/8

TOTS

9am-10.30 - 3-5yrs

6-10 yrs

10.30am-12.30 - Red Ball

8-14 yrs

1.30-4.30 - Green/Orange

29/7 5/8 12/8 19/8 26/8

TOTS

9am-10.30 - 3-5yrs

6-10 yrs

10.30am-12.30 - Red Ball

12 + yrs

1.30pm-4.30 - Full ball

30/7 6/8 13/8 27/8

TOTS

9am-10.30 - 3-5yrs

6-10 yrs

10.30am-12.30 - Red ball

8-14 yrs

1.30-4.30 - Green/Orange Ball

31/7 7/8 14/8* 28/8

TOTS

9am-10.30 - 3-5yrs

6-10 yrs

10.30am-12.30 - Red ball

8-14 yrs

1.30-4.30 - Green/Orange Ball

*No afternoon session 14/8

Costs

Tots (90 minutes) - £12

Red Ball (2 hrs) - £18

Orange/Green Ball/Full Ball (3hrs) £23

5% Sibling Discount & 10% to anyone booking 4+ sessions

Locations

Aine Tennis Club - Back Lane - YO61 1TJ

Thirsk Tennis Club - Newsham Rd - YO7 1QP

Leake Tennis Club - HRAP Knayton - YO7 4AX

Coxwold Tennis Club - Coxwold - YO61 4AD

FRIDAYS @ COXWOLD

THURSDAYS @ KNAYTON

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Tollerton War Memorial Institute (Village Hall) Information

The Tollerton War Memorial (TWMI) Village Hall is a wholly self-funding Charity & the Committee is very grateful for all the support received with the fundraising events and to those who book the Hall for private occasions.

The Tollerton Duck Race on Sunday 24th May 2026 was a great turn out. Thanks to all who attended, to the Committee members, to all the helpers & bakers & to Janette & Murray Ferris for the use of their driveway & facilities. A special thank you to Charlotte & Stephen Smith for wading in the river.

Thanks also to all those who attended the 'Milestone Event' on Saturday 21st February 2026, a great event & the Brunch on Sunday 1st March 2026.

Next Event:

Saturday & Sunday 15th & 16th August 2026- Village Competition

This year, as it is the 'National Year of Reading', instead of Build a Boat, the theme is 'Build Your Favourite Book Character'.

The Character can be made of anything you want to make it from. There will be prizes for – 'Best Used Recycled Materials' as voted by Judges, 'Best Overall Display' (child/adult), as voted by the Public, and new for 2026: 'Most Correctly Identified Characters' & a 'Best Short Story/Picture Book' competition about your favourite character (under 5's, 5-8 & 9-11years), max 200 words; to be submitted no later than **Saturday, 1st August 2026**.

Submission point: Tollerton Village Hall.

Winners announced on Sunday 16th August 2026, at the Village Hall.

Build a Book entrants need to be displayed by 11am on Saturday 15th August & Sunday 16th August 2026. There will be a 'Pop Up Café' at Tollerton Village Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 16th August 2026. Build a Book is open to everyone & free to enter.

To enter email tollertonvillagehall75@gmail.com no later than Sunday 9th August 2026. Maps & ID Sheets go on sale on Saturday 15th August 2026.

Up and coming events

Friday 11th September 2026 – ‘The Battle of Myton’

A talk by Dr Rachael Whitbread at 7.00p.m., Licenced Bar event. A walk on the 12th at the Battle Site included. Tickets £10.

Saturday 26th September 2026 – ‘Cool Notes Big Band’

Live music event with a York Based Jazz Band. An evening of swinging classics and modern arrangements. Licenced Bar event. Tickets £10.

October 2026 Quiz & Supper with Licenced Bar

Date & cost to be confirmed.

Friday 23rd October 2026 – Snake Davis & the Snake Davis Band

Snake Davis & the Snake Davis Band returns again by popular demand. Licenced Bar event. Tickets: early bird £22: £24 after 1st September.

Tickets for the above events please contact:

tollertonvillagehall175@gmail.com

We are looking for Tombola prizes for the Christmas Event on **Saturday 5th December 2026**. Please email tollertonvillagehall75@gmail.com

Planning an Event?

The Village Hall is a great place to hold a party/event to celebrate important occasions. There is full use of kitchen facilities & hall equipment & also an outdoor space at the rear of the Hall. We offer very competitive prices. Please email tollertonvillagehall75@gmail.com , you will not regret it!

Tollerton Coffee Club

Tollerton Coffee Club meets weekly on **Wednesdays at 10.30a.m. to 12.00 noon** at St. Michael's Church Hall, Tollerton.

Join us for coffee/tea and biscuits.

All Welcome.

First Meet

THOLTHORPE Community CHOIR

Come and join us!



Do you love to sing? Want to be part of a fun,
welcoming and inclusive community?
Come add your voice to our choir!

Sunday 2nd August at 3pm

THOLTHORPE CHAPEL - ALL AGES WELCOME

More info email: sharon@yourofficeangels.co.uk
tel: 07808706825



Cream Teas

Bank Holiday Monday

31 August 2 – 4 pm

Huby Methodist Chapel

(find us opposite Tollerton Road Jn, in Huby)

Coffee, Tea, Cakes

Stalls to browse



ANGLICAN SERVICES

July 2026

Venue	5 th July	12 th July	19 th July	26 th July
Aldwark	10.30a.m. All Age Holy Communion	At Alne		At Alne
Alne	At Aldwark	10.30a.m. All Age Holy Communion		3.00p.m. Celtic Service
Tollerton	10.30a.m. Morning Worship 6.00p.m. Sunday at 6	10.30a.m. All Age	10.30a.m. Holy Communion	10.30a.m. Morning Worship

August 2026

Venue	2 nd August	9 th August	16 th August	23 rd August	30 th August
Aldwark	10.30a.m. All Age Holy Communion	At Alne		At Alne	10.30a.m. Joint Communion Service at Skelton
Alne	At Aldwark	10.30a.m. All Age Holy Communion		3.00p.m. Celtic Service	
Tollerton	10.30a.m. Morning Worship	10.30a.m. All Age	10.30a.m. Holy Communion	10.30a.m. Morning Worship	

METHODIST SERVICES

Minister: Rev Alex Middleton-Laing

Telephone: 07414 945299 e-mail:

alex.laing@methodist.org.uk



You can often find Alex in the Curious Table, Market Place Easingwold, between 9.00 and 10.00a.m. on Thursday mornings.

Methodist Worship Services in July and August will have an unusual pattern to reflect the holiday season.

Please check below for where you can find worship each week.

METHODIST SERVICES

July 2026

5 th July 10.30a.m. Easingwold Methodist Church	This service will be jointly led by members of Villages Together and Easingwold Methodist Churches and will be held in Easingwold Methodist Church on Chapel Street, Easingwold.
12 th July 10.00a.m. – 3.00p.m. Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church	There will be a "Circuit Celebration" – a day of celebration, worship, refreshments, prayer, crafts & activities, and finishing with a Big Hymn Sing. The day will include saying farewell to Rev Rory Dalgleish as he moves to another appointment
Tuesday 14 th July 11.00a.m. at Alne Hall	Rev Alex Middleton-Laing will lead a service of Holy Communion for residents of Alne Hall and the wider community, particularly welcoming those who cannot attend the Circuit Celebration or other services on Sunday 12 th July.
19 th July 10.30a.m. at Huby Methodist Chapel	Morning service led by Rev Alex Middleton-Laing.

19 th July 3.00p.m. at Acomb Methodist Church	Farewell Service for the Chair of this Methodist District, Rev Leslie Newton.
26 th July 3.00p.m. at Tholthorpe Methodist Chapel	Afternoon worship led by Rev Alex Middleton-Laing

August 2026

2 nd August 10.30a.m. Easingwold Haxby	Service led by Rev Alex Middleton-Laing at Easingwold Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Easingwold. Service led by Elaine Thompson at Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church.
9 th August	Churches in the York Methodist Circuit will be having a day at the seaside! There will not be worship in local churches on this day. Do join with Anglican or Catholic friends if you would like to attend a local church service.
16 th August 10.30a.m. Easingwold	Service led by Elaine Thompson at Easingwold Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Easingwold.
23 rd August 3.00p.m. Tholthorpe	Service led by Rev Alex Middleton-Laing at Tholthorpe Methodist Chapel.
Friday 28 th August 7.00p.m. Harrogate	Welcome Service for the new Chair of this Methodist District, Rev Romeo Pedro. This service will also be livestreamed.
30 th August 10.30a.m.	Service led by Rev Alex Middleton-Laing at Huby Methodist Chapel.

New! Tholthorpe Community Choir

Do you enjoy singing? Would you like to sing with others for fun and mutual encouragement? Tholthorpe Community Choir is an all age singing group which will begin on the **first Sunday in August**.

Come along to help shape the 'repertoire'. Tea and cake provided!!

Please note that whilst children and young people are very welcome under 18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult for safeguarding purposes (see picture ad on page 14 of this newsletter).

Cream Teas

Thank you to all who came along to the Villages Together May Bank Holiday Cream Teas in Huby. We were glad to raise £157.40 for Christian Aid.

Our next Cream Teas will take place on **August Bank holiday Monday, 31st August between 2.00 – 4.00p.m.** in the Methodist Chapel in Huby.

All are welcome to come and share scones with cream and jam or (if you prefer) cheese scones with cream cheese and chutney, along with tea/coffee and stalls to browse.

We hope to see you there!

Contact Details:

The Anglican minister for the villages in the Parish of Alne is Revd. Lucy Brencher. Revd. Lucy can be contacted by telephone on 07940 514 492 or by e-mail at revlucybrencher@gmail.com

Church Wardens/ Co-ordinators

St Mary's Alne

Jan and Andrew Naismith e-mail ajnstmarys@gmail.com

St. Stephen's Aldwark

Vivienne Bird e-mail viviennebird@hotmail.co.uk

St. Michael's Tollerton

Richard Swan 07923 905186 e-mail richardwswan@btinternet.com

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e-mail: news@abchurches.org.uk